

class of Williams Scholar Academy in Abbeville, LA—the first public charter school in Vermilion Parish.

Five students have earned their place in the inaugural class. They are:

Tiranni Mechel Henderson  
Trinity India Readom  
Warkaylar Leona Johnson  
RyanDrea Dexeanna Readom  
Virtue Sanaa'h Davenport

These five students have worked hard to earn their diplomas. Tiranni, Trinity, Warkaylar, RyanDrea, and Virtue mark the beginning of what I hope is a long list of graduates. They will forever be a part of Williams Scholar Academy history and have set a standard of academic success for future students to follow.

I was honored to participate in the groundbreaking and prayer ceremony for Williams Scholar Academy in March of 2021. We had a beautiful and uplifting gathering. Citizens across the community came together with a shared mission to bring new educational opportunities to South Louisiana. We prayed for the success of the school and the young men and women that would be attending.

Today, we recognize an answered prayer—Williams Scholar Academy's first graduating class.

This is a monumental achievement, but it is only the beginning.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana's 3rd District, I recognize Tiranni Mechel Henderson, Trinity India Readom, Warkaylar Leona Johnson, RyanDrea Dexeanna Readom, and Virtue Sanaa'h Davenport on their graduation. I wish each of them great success in their future endeavors, and I pray that Williams Scholar Academy will educate, serve, and graduate students for many years to come.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF REVEREND JESSE TURNER

#### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 16, 2022*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pine Bluff native, Reverend Jesse Turner. Reverend Turner is the President of the Pine Bluff Faith Community Coalition Ministerial Alliance and a staunch supporter and leader of the "Pen or Pencil" program, which promotes a national mentoring initiative to reach students in violence-prone areas.

Reverend Turner's program has successfully served young adults whose circumstances have put them at risk for entry into the criminal justice system. Since 2005, the Pen or Pencil program is now in 12 states and 15 locations. It has enhanced and expanded mentoring services for youth to choose the "pencil" for education rather than the "pen" for the penitentiary.

Choosing education and a life committed to good when the community around you is suffering takes great courage, and it takes great leaders. Reverend Turner is such a leader in Pine Bluff, and all who have taken part in his ministry through the Alliance or through Pen or Pencil know that his work makes a difference.

I thank Reverend Turner for the good work he has done for generations of Fourth District Arkansans.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and mourn former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta. My thoughts and sympathies are with his wife Deni, his children Stuart, David, Mark and Bob, and his family and friends. He was a truly remarkable, trailblazing individual who became one of the most prominent Asian American figures in our country. His legacy included many firsts, and his life was a source of inspiration, a testament to the American spirit of fighting for justice and equality.

I met Norm when I was working for the late, beloved Congressman Ron Dellums. Norm was very kind to me, taught me a lot, listened to my ideas, and was a close friend of Ron's. In many ways, he was a mentor to me. Later, when I became a member of Congress, he always sought me out to tell me how proud he was of me. Such support coming from this giant of a man, always humbled me. I always told him how much he influenced my life, and I was deeply grateful for his friendship.

His success did not come without sacrifice. When Secretary Mineta was ten years old, our government forcibly removed him and his family from their home in San Jose to a World War II Japanese American incarceration camp, the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming. Decades later, he led the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, which granted reparations and a formal apology to Japanese Americans wrongfully incarcerated by our government solely on the basis of race, due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942.

Having endured such blatant racism and discrimination against Japanese Americans, he understood the importance of fighting for people who never had a voice in our political process. Throughout his career, he was the first Asian American mayor of San Jose, the first Japanese American member of Congress from the lower 48 states, and the first Asian American Cabinet Member, serving as both the Secretary of Commerce for President Clinton and Secretary of Transportation for President Bush. In 2006, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his achievements.

During his time in Congress, Secretary Mineta co-founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and its sister organization, the Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies (APAICS), to advocate for issues concerning the AAPI community. It is because of his efforts that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has a greater voice in this chamber. My prayers are with his family, friends, and the AAPI community. We have all lost an icon.

Madam Speaker, I urge the entire House to continue to honor Secretary Mineta's legacy through our commitment to justice and equality for all.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN LELAND PERRY AND JASON HADFIELD FOR RECEIVING THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 16, 2022*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Justin Leland Perry and Jason Hadfield for being awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for saving a young girl from drowning. Their heroic actions cannot be overstated, and our community is indebted to their laudable efforts.

Originally created by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was implemented to recognize selfless and heroic acts from citizens across the U.S. and Canada. The medal's inspiration dates back to 1904 during the Harwick Mine tragedy where 181 lives were lost. Two victims of the disaster sacrificed themselves to save others which inspired Carnegie to create the fund. Since then, more than 10,000 awardees have been honored, with more than \$40 million given in grants, scholarships, death benefits, and other assistance. There is no doubt that Justin and Jason are deserving of this honor.

On July 25, 2020, in Honor, Michigan, a young girl was swimming on a floatie in Lake Michigan when suddenly the tether slipped off of her mother's wrist. Instantly, the high winds and strong current pulled the floatie away from shore eventually tipping the girl over in the water. Justin Leland Perry and Jason Hadfield, who were with different groups, sprang into action using a child's life ring and kayak to help bring the victim to shore. Justin and Jason's valiant efforts saved a young life and prevented significant and tragic hardship for a family and community.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Justin Leland Perry and Jason Hadfield for being awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such selfless and heroic citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

#### CELEBRATING COACH BOB "WAGS" WAGNER ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. KAIALI' I KAHELE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 16, 2022*

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Hawaii football coach Bob "Wags" Wagner on his 75th birthday.

Coach Bob "Wags" Wagner is a two-time Conference Coach of the Year and led the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors to their first bowl game in 1989, their first Western Athletic Conference (WAC) title in 1992, and he represented the WAC as its Champion in the 1992 Holiday Bowl with a win over Illinois. Coach Wags is the only University of Hawaii head football coach to have beaten rival BYU on multiple occasions in 1989, 1990 and the

Holiday Bowl season in 1992. Coach Wags' record is 58–49–3.

Bob Wagner was born on May 16, 1947 in Newark, Ohio to the late George and Jessie Wagner. The youngest of six siblings—George, Mary, Harriet, Dolores and Teresa—Bob grew up playing neighborhood pickup football and following regional collegiate football powerhouse, the Ohio State Buckeyes, with his family. A two-sport collegiate athlete, Bob was a two-time all-conference selection in football and two-time all-region selection in lacrosse. Bob graduated from Wittenberg University in 1969.

He began his career in coaching at Gallipolis High School and River View High School in Ohio, before coaching at the collegiate level at Muskingum University and at the College of Wooster. Always drawn to the Pacific, Coach Wags had his first opportunity to coach Division I football as an assistant at the University of Washington under coach Don James in 1976.

In 1977, Coach Wags came to the University of Hawaii as an assistant coach under Larry Price, and was promoted to defensive coordinator in 1983 under head coach Dick Tomey. Coach Wags became head coach of the Rainbow Warriors in 1987, and served the University of Hawaii football program for almost two decades. He was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame, the Wittenberg Athletics Hall of Honor, and the University of Hawaii Sports Circle of Honor.

Coach Wags concluded his career in athletics leadership at Kamehameha Schools—and is the author of a 1993 book titled, "Getting the Edge: Hawaii Football" which details the history of football in Hawaii and Coach Wags' time as one of the first major college head coaches to embrace the spread concept of the triple-option philosophy. He currently enjoys his retirement on Hawaii Island with his wife and University of Hawaii alumna, Gloria.

I wish Coach Wags a happy birthday, and continued health and happiness to he and Gloria in the years to come.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5129, the bipartisan CSBG Modernization Act, and in support of my amendment to the bill.

I appreciate the chairman for his support of my amendment and for bringing this bill to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which supports critical efforts to help those living in poverty, to the floor.

The CSBG supports a comprehensive effort in our communities to help families find jobs, obtain housing and food, and achieve self-sufficiency.

CSBG funds are to be used for activities that have a "meaningful and potentially significant impact" on causes of poverty. The law broadly defines allowable activities including education, help finding employment, removing obstacles to self-sufficiency, and maintaining

adequate House. But the actual use is determined by local communities through a needs assessment.

This reauthorization reflects a renewed commitment to streamline and revitalize the program's stated purpose: to reduce poverty through support for Community Action Agencies that improve economic security of low-income individuals and families and create new opportunities in the communities where they live.

There are sixteen CSBG funded Community Action Agencies in Wisconsin including the Social Development Commission in Milwaukee.

One of the challenges low-income individuals and families in Wisconsin and elsewhere in our country face every day is food insecurity. In the richest country on this plan, too many low-income individuals and families find themselves struggling to feed themselves and their families each and every day.

According to Feeding America (as of March 2021), an estimated 680,330 Wisconsinites (11.7 percent or just over 1 in 8), including 1 in 5 children, experienced food insecurity in 2020. That includes 147,000 food insecure people in Milwaukee County alone.

Feeding America Wisconsin likewise noted that its food banks saw an average sustained increase in demand for food assistance of 40–55 percent in the first months of the pandemic. But I know I don't need to remind anyone that food insecurity has long been a problem in our country.

This problem is only worsening as food prices rise while at the same time, federal supports that have helped these families keep food on the table, such as the American Rescue Plan's child tax credit improvements and the USDA's school meal waivers, are coming to an end.

Vulnerable communities most at risk for food insecurity include seniors and the disabled living on fixed incomes, people of color, families with children.

My amendment would strengthen efforts to address nutrition and food insecurity through the Community Service Block Grant. As noted by WISCAP, "food insecurity is foremost not a condition, but a symptom—a particularly painful and persistent symptom—of our local, state, and national failure to fundamentally confront and eliminate economic inequality. Food insecurity stands at the crossroads of a host of causal factors—social, corporate, economic, cultural, personal, educational, and governmental—with which it is deeply intertwined. When households lack sufficient income to meet their basic needs—whether housing, utilities, health care, education, childcare, and transportation—families will first prioritize inflexible bills—like rent, electricity, heat, gas that cannot be negotiated—thus reducing amount of money in the household budget to buy food. Thus, economic insecurity 'translates into' food insecurity."

As we modernize and improve the CSBG for the 21st Century, we must make sure that we do not forget the need to help families put and keep food on the table.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and the underlying bill.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2022

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to technical difficulties, I am recorded as "Not Voting" on Final Passage of H.R. 5129.

I was present, I proxy voted for three members, and I intended to vote YEA on Roll Call No. 182.

HONORING PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT SARA BONSER

**HON. VAN TAYLOR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ms. Sara Bonser, the much admired Superintendent of Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) in Texas' Third Congressional District.

A lifelong lover of education, Ms. Bonser earned an undergraduate degree in Business Education from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, a Master's degree in Education Administration from the University of North Texas, and a superintendent's certification from Texas A&M Commerce.

Ms. Bonser began her thirty-three years of service in public education with Plano ISD, where she served in a multitude of roles including as a teacher, assistant principal, and as a principal at Williams High School. Her ability to understand and appreciate how various roles within a school system work in tandem earned her the respect of those around her including her colleagues, parents, and students. She would later assume the position of Chief Academic Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Assistant Superintendent for Student and Family Services, and was the first Director of Student and Family Services with Rockwall Independent School District prior to her homecoming with Plano ISD.

Sara Bonser was first appointed to serve as the District Superintendent of Plano ISD in March 2018 following her impressive service as interim Deputy Superintendent.

Ms. Bonser is highly esteemed within the community as evidenced by her involvement in various professional and civic organizations including the Academy for Transformational Leadership, Raise Your Hand Texas Principal Leadership Development Program at Harvard University, the Executive Board of the Texas School Coalition, Vice Chair of the Region 10 Education Service Center's Regional Advisory Committee, the Texas Association of School Administrators Advocacy Committee, the Coalition for Behavioral Healthcare in Collin County, and the Medical City Plano Community Advisory Council to name just a few.

Additionally, Sara was recognized for her steadfast efforts as a recipient of the Principal of the Year Award from the College Board Southwest Region for Excellence in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program, and as a Semifinalist for the HEB Excellence in Education Award Secondary Principal of the Year. As a further testament to her respect in the